

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 55-77 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-54 have been canceled in view of new claims 55-77.

Applicants appreciate the indication on page 5 of the Office Action that claims 35-37 and 48-54 would be allowable if placed in independent form. By this Amendment, new claim 55 combines the subject matter of claim 28 and allowable claim 35, claim 64 combines the subject matter of claim 38 and allowable claim 49 and claim 75 combines the subject matter of claims 38, 43, 44, 47 and allowable claim 48.

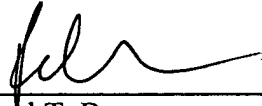
Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____


Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:eaw
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100